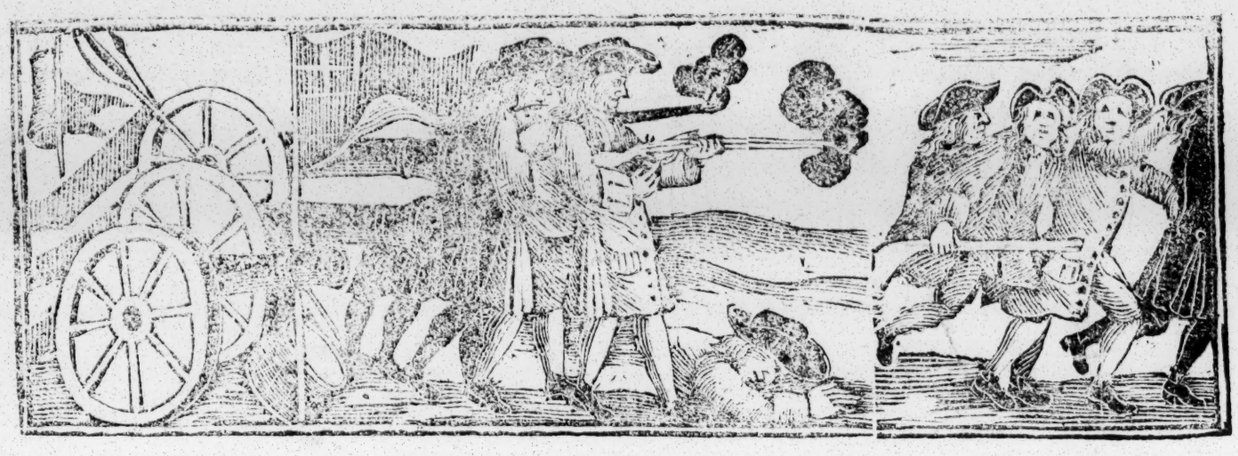
THE GENERAL's PATTERN,

Containing an Account of the whole Life, Family and Glorious Actions of *John Churchill* late *Duke* of *Marlborough*. With an Account of all his Battles, Victories, Seiges, Posts of Honour, Trust and Preferment, *&c.*



IN the writing of History there are so many things Essential necessary, that it's very difficult to avoid the Censures of the World; And so Particularly arduous is the Beogr phy of Men, that few Historians have escap'd them

Love and Hatr d are two prevalent Passions which naturaly tend Men to Favour or Explode the Actions of the Persons they are treating of, and hence it is th t a Faithful Account is very rarely deliver'd, and l ss omet credited; But to my Comfort, I m now writing the L fe of a Man whose History I shall be able to prove Genuine and Authentick even ag inst the most Ma icious Reprcacher and Invidious Calumniator, for who can withstand a known Truth, where thousands now living can Attest the same? But perhaps it may be alledged that I could not possibly come at them, or it may be ask'd what Acquaintance I had with his Grace; to all which I reply, I had a very ll under Personal knowledge, but have h d a very faithful Relation given me of the most remarkable Occurrences and Transactions of his Life, and Family; not only from the Peerage of *England. Common-Prin's* or *Dom sticks*, but even from some Persons of Rank and Distinct on who were h's Lordship's particular Favorites, an I Such as, I'm very well assur'd, durst n t upon any Score wh atsoever give me any other then a just Account of him, and therefore waving all farther Apology I shall proceed, That,

On *Saturday* the 16*th Instant*, about four a Clock in the Morning dy'd at *Cranburn Lodge* near *Windsor*, the most Noble *John Churchill*, Duke and Earl of *Marlborough*, Marquess of *Blanford*, Lord *Churhill* of *Sandridge* in the County of *Hertford*, and Baron of *Aymouth* in the County of *Berwick* in *Scotland*; Prince of the *Holy Roman Empire*, Captain General of His Majesty's Forces, Master General of the Ordnance, Colonel of the first Regiment of Foot-Guards, one of the Lords of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, *&c.* He dy d in the 73*d* Year of his Age: He was the eldest Son of Sir *Winston Churchill* of *Wooton Basset* in the County of *Wilts*, Knight Clerk of the *Green Cloth*, and Fellow of the *Royal Society*, by his Wife *Elizabeth*, Daughter of Sir *William Drake* of *Ash* in the County of *Devon*, Bart, which County will for ever boast of the Birth of this Great Man, he having been born at *Ash*, the antient Seat of his Mother's Family.

His first Step to Advancement in Martial Affairs was a Colours in the Foot-Guards; in which Post he attended the Duke of *Monmouth* into *France*, who made him Captain of a Company in his own R giment: When he return d to *England* he was made Lieut. Col. of the Regiment comman ded by Sir *Tho. Littleton*, and Gentlem n of the Bed Chamber, and Master of the Robes to the Duke of *York*. He was created Baron of *Aymouth* in 1689, Baron of *Sandridge* in the C unty of *Hertford*, *May* 14, 1685, 1 *Jac.* II. Earl of *Marlborough*, *Apr.* 9, 1689, 1 *W.* & *M* Marquese of *Blanford* and Duke of *Marlborough*, Dec. 14, 1702, 1 *Anna*; and Prince of *Mindelheim* in the *Holy Roman Empire* in 1704, whereby he was enlitled to a Vote in the College of Princes at the Diet of Ratisbon.

To mention all his Posts in the late Reigns would be too tedious; therefore we will only take notice, that he was Gentleman of the Bed-chamber t King *James* II. and *William* III. In the Y ar 1689, he comm nded the *English* Forces in *Flanders*: In 1690 he was to Stiuted Governor to the D ke of *Gloucester*; but the Year following was removed from all his Employments, and w s not restor'd to Favour till the Year 17 1, when he was appointed Genera of the Foot and Comm nder of the *English* Forces in *Holland*.

In the first y ar of Queen *Ann*'s, of b ess'd M mory, he was made C ptain General of all her Maj sty's Land Forces, elected Knt of the Garter, and sent Embassador into *Holland*: In 1702, he commanded the Army in *Flanders*, and so we l executed his Commission of Captain General, that he not only secured an extended the Frontier of *Holland*, by taking the Towns and Fortresses of *Venlo*, *Ruromond*, *Stevenswaert* and *Liege*, but soon ob iged the Enemy, (who had been at the Gates of *Nimeghen*) to seek Shelter behind their Lines; and in the next Campaign, by taking *Bon*, *Huy* and *Limburg*, added all the Country between the *Rhine* and the *Maes* to the Conqu sts of the preceeding Year: And then, in the m morable Year 1704, when her late Majesty was gener s fly pleased to take the Reso n ion of rescuing the Empire from that immediate Ruin, to which, by the Defection of the Elector of *Bavaria*, it was exposed; the Measures, which by her Majesty's Wisdom and Goodness, had been dev sed and concerted, were pursued by her said General with the utmost Diligence, Secrecy, and good Conduct, in l ading the Forces of her M jesty and her Allies by a long and difficu t March to the Banks of the *Danube*; w re the D. immediate y upon his Arrival, attack'd and forc'd the *Bavarians* (assisted by the *French*) in t eir str ng Intrenchments at *Schellenbergh*, pas'd the *Danube*, distress'd th Country of *Bavaria*, and a second Time fought the Enemy, who had bee reinforc'd by a Royal Army of the *Frenc* King's best Troops c mmanded by a Marshal of *France*; and on the 2d Day of Aug. 1704, after a b oody Battle at *Blenheim*, (tho' the Enemy had the Advantage of Number and Situation) gained the m st absolute and glorious Victory as has been recorded in the Histor of any Age; by w hich *Bavaria* being intirely reduc'd, at *Ratisbon Augsbourgh*, *Ulm*, *Memmiaghen*, and other Imperial Towns recover'd the Liberty of the D'et, and the Peace of the Empire were restored and *Landau*, *Treeves* and *Traerbach* being taken, the War was carry'd into the Dom nions of *France*; all which happy Atchievements app rently tended not only to the Honour and Safety of this Kingdom then and in Time to come, but also towards the futu e Tr nquility of *Europe*.

In the Beginning of the Year 1705, the Duke of *Marlborough* led the Forces of the Queen and her Allies to the *Moselle*, where, by the Progress made in the preceeding Year, a fair Prospect was afforded of removing the War from the Countries of the Allies into the Enemies own Territories; but that great Design, through unforeseen Accidents, was render'd impracticable; and the Enemy taking Advantage of the Remoteness of the Duke, and the Troops under his Command, press'd the Armies of the States General, which were left for Defence of their Frontiers, with a superior Force: On this extraordinary Occasion, the Duke shew'd all the Parts of a Great Captain; and at the same Time, the Zeal he had for the Service of his Sovereign and true Regard to her Allies, by a speedy March he return d to the *Maes*, where a new Face of Affairs immedi tely appear'd, and the Queen's Allies the States General, were deliver'd from the Uneasiness they were under; *Liege* was reliev'd, *Huy* re taken, and the Enemy oblig'd to retire behind the Lines, which they thought im regnable: But the Duke, with a surprizing Conduct and Bravery on *July* 7 1705, with n l considerable Loss so defeated their Lines, defeated, rout a t of the Enemies Forces and obliged their whole Army to a precipitate Retreat: And altho' all the Advantages were not obtain'd which the Duke had pr pos'd to himself from that Success, yet it confirm'd the Minds of her Majesty's Allies, and produced that happy Consequence of the Duke's being intrusted with such a Power as gave him an Opportunity of performing those great Actions, which were executed in the ensuing glorious Campaign, in which the Enemy confiding in the Superiory of their Army, compos'd of their choicest Troops, gave the Duke of *Marlborough* an opportunity of attacking them, which he did at *Ramillies* on the 12*th* of *May* 1706, with such Res lution and Conduct, that in two Hours Time he obtain'd a most compleat and glorious Victory, and prosecuted his Advantage without any Intermi sion during the whole Campaign: The Battle of *Ramillies* was follow'd by the immediate Surrender of *Louvain*, *Brussels*, *Mastricht*, *Ghent*, *Oudenard*, *Antwerp Dam*, *Bruges*, and *Courtray*, and the Taking of *Ostend*, *Menin*, *Dendermond* and *Ath*, most of which Places had heretofore taken up the greatest Generals whole Campaigns in their Sieges: And thus almost the entire *Spanish Netherlands*, which had been contended for so many Ages, were conquer'd in one Summer.

But lest t pursue, even by this Way of Abridgment, all the glorious Exploits of this great Man, in his publick Capacity, would take up more Room than this Paper affords, we will only add, that in 1712, he was removed from all His Employments, and soon after retired beyond Seas but upon his present Majesty's Accession to the Throne in 1714, return'd again, and was restor'd to all his Posts. It remains to give some Account of him as to private Life.

He marry'd *Sarah*, Daughter of *Richard Jennings* of *Sandridge* in the County of *Hertford*, *Esq*; by whom he had Issue, one only Son, *John* Marquess of *Blanford*, who dy'd at *Cambridge*, in the Year 1703, and four Daughters, *viz.* the Lady *Harriot*, marry'd to *Francis Godolphin*, now Earl of *Godolphin*; the Lady *Anne*, marry'd to *Charles Spencer*, late Earl of *Sunderland*; the Lady *Elizabeth*, marry'd to *Scroop Egerton*, now Duke of *Bridgwater*; and the Lady *Mary*, marry'd to *John Montagu*, now Duke of *Montagu*. He is succeeded in all His Honours (except the Baronage of *Aymouth*, which is extinct by his Death without Issue Male) by his eldest Daughter the Countess of *Godolphin*, by virtue of an Act of Parliament pass'd in the 5*th* Year of the late Queen *of ever blessed Memory*, whereby it is enacted, That for perpetuating the Memory of the several great Actions perform'd by the Duke of *Marlborough*, (such Actions, says the Preamble to the Act, as the wisest and greatest People have rewarded with States and Triumphs) and for settling and continuing his Titles and Honours, and the Right of Precedence in His Posterity, in Default of Heirs and Males of the Body of the said Duke of *Marlborough* ceasing, the States, Degree, Stiles, Titles, Dignities and Honours aforesaid, [*viz.* Baron *Churchill* of *Sandridge*, Earl of *Marlborough*, Marquess of *Blanford*, and Duke of *Marlborough*] shall continue, remain, be invested in, and shall be held and enjoy'd by the Lady *Harriot*, eldest Daughter of the said Duke of *Marlborough*, and Wife of *Francis Godolphin*, *Esq*; Son and Heir Apparent of *Sydney* Lord *Godolphin*, Lord high Treasurer of *England*, and the Heirs Males of her Body begotten. And for Default of such Issue, to the other Daughters and their Heirs in like Manner. The Manor of *Woodstock*, &c. and the 5000 *l. per Annum* payable out of the Post Office, are, by Act of Parliament likewise, settled on the Dutchess Dowager of *Marlborough* for her Life; and after her Decease to be enjoy'd by the Daughters of the late Duke, *&c.* in the same Manner as the Titles.

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